

can help raise awareness about this epidemic of violence, and encourage all of us to realize just how prevalent this is in our communities. The time has come for us all to work together to end this violence.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER WORK OF EMMA VALENTEEN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Phoenixville, Pennsylvania woman who has dedicated her life to making a difference in her community and lending a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Emma Valenteen moved to Phoenixville as a teenager in 1948 and has called the Borough home ever since. Her tremendous work ethic allowed her to juggle the demands of raising five children while working for 44 years at Container Corp. of America. Somehow, Emma still found plenty of energy to work even harder in her community. After losing her youngest daughter, Marianne, to leukemia, Emma joined the Valley Forge Chapter of the support group Compassionate Friends. By 1991, she started a Phoenixville chapter and has spent 18 years as chairwoman of the group.

For more than a quarter century, Emma has been the Recording Secretary of the Social Concerns Committee of the Phoenixville Interfaith Council. Her commitment to the community and dedicated volunteerism earned Emma numerous awards through the years. However, it has been the organizations and the entire community who have been the true winners thanks to Emma's extraordinary efforts.

Friends, family and community members will express their gratitude for Emma's service and recognize all of her accomplishments during a dinner on September 30, 2009 at Robert Ryan's Columbia Station.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Emma Valenteen for her selfless service and tireless work to make Phoenixville a great place to live, work and raise a family.

H.R. 3548, THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. And, I want to commend my colleague Representative McDERMOTT for his leadership on this issue.

The financial and economic collapse last year put this country in the worst economic recession since the 1930s.

And while we have seen signs that the economy is stabilizing, millions of Americans and their families continue to struggle.

Struggle to pay their monthly rent or mortgage.

Struggle to pay for their prescriptions.

Struggle to pay for food and other of life's basic necessities. . . .

H.R. 3548 will assist workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own and who continue to look for work in states with high unemployment.

Ohio is one of those states . . . the current jobless rate in Ohio is 10.8 percent.

It is estimated that 11,642 Ohioans will run out of unemployment compensation by the end of the month and 64,545 will exhaust their benefits by the end of the year. H.R. 3548 will extend benefits for these workers whose safety net is running out.

There are 5 million Americans who have been searching for work for longer than 6 months.

And unfortunately, when it comes to getting back to work, prospects are dim. There are 6 unemployed workers for every available job in the U.S.

These figures and the severity of the economic recession make it critical for Congress to extend unemployment benefits.

We must help our workers, families, neighbors and communities weather these tough economic times.

We must continue to provide the financial assistance needed to help cushion the impact of the recession.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3548.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. PEDRO DEVORA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Pedro Devora, whose barbershop business recently celebrated 50 years of operations in downtown Floresville, Texas.

Pedro Devora was born on May 22, 1926 and raised in Tordio, Texas where he attended school until the third grade. Mr. Devora worked in the area until he joined the U.S. Navy on October 1, 1944 to serve his country. While in the Navy, he served during the invasion of Okinawa that began on April 1, 1945. During that mission, his ship was hit in battle. Mr. Devora would survive a night in the water until he was rescued the following morning. During his time in the Navy, his hard work ethic gained him several promotions from his superiors. In fact, in less than a week he went from working in the laundry section to becoming an assistant supervisor, and later supervisor. In 1946, Mr. Devora returned to the United States and received an honorable discharge.

Following his time in the Navy, he returned home to Tordio and within a year he decided to attend Barber School. While in attendance, Mr. Devora married his sweetheart, Maria Flores on November 3, 1947. In 1948, Mr. Devora received his Barber's License and began work in Floresville, Texas.

Since returning from the Navy, he has been active in several political races, such as those of Lyndon Baines Johnson, Harry Truman, Gus Garcia, Carlos Cadena, Judge Mike Machado, Congressman Chick Kazen, Albert Pena, Judge Esquivel, Pete Tijerina, and almost every Democratic President since 1946.

On August 12th, 1959, he opened a barber-shop with his longtime friend Raymond Lucio. Mr. Devora and Mr. Lucio spent over 49 years as coworkers until Mr. Lucio's passing. The business remains in operation to this day and remains a pillar of the Floresville community.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the many accomplishments and service of Mr. Pedro Devora, and I thank you for this time.

2009 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EM- PLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my local police department, the Santa Ana Police Department, on receiving the 2009 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

Each year, the United States gives this distinguished award to large businesses, small businesses, and public service employers who provide outstanding support to employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Last week, Chief Paul Walters of the Santa Ana Police Department had the pleasure of being congratulated by President Obama and Secretary Gates at the White House after a reception and ceremony hosted by Dr. Jill Biden.

The Orange County community is incredibly proud of the Santa Ana Police Department. They have worked hard to create a positive work environment for our National Guard and Reserve members, and we are so grateful that they protect us each and every day.

I want to personally thank the Chief and the police department for their efforts and congratulate them once again for receiving the 2009 Freedom Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed four votes under suspension of the Rules on September 9, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the following four bills: H. Res. 447, H.R. 2097, H.R. 2498, and H. Res. 722.

NATIONAL JOB CORPS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 163, to support the designation of September 23, 2009, as National Job Corps Day.

Since 1964, Job Corps has trained young adults for meaningful careers, improving their

lives through vocational and academic training.

Each year, Job Corps serves over 60,000 young people and nearly three million Americans have benefited from this service over the past 45 years.

Job Corps is considered the Nation's largest and most successful high school dropout recovery and youth empowerment program.

To celebrate Job Corps' 45th anniversary, I am hosting Sean Barnett in my office on September 23rd.

Sean was one of 60 students selected nationwide to shadow Members of Congress for the day.

Sean is currently an Advanced Career Training (ACT) student at the Cleveland Job Corps Academy. He is majoring in business and hopes to become an investment banker.

Sean has held several important student leader positions including Floor Leader in his dorm, Sergeant at Arms of the Student Government Association, Proctor, and Treasurer of the Student Government.

It is an honor to host a current Job Corps student and to designate the day that Sean Barnett interned in my office as National Job Corps Day. I wish Sean the best of luck and congratulate him for his involvement with Job Corps.

IN RECOGNITION OF MELVIN J. LARSON'S 54 YEARS OF SERVICE TO UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF WILL COUNTY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melvin J. Larson for his fifty-four years of service as a board member and founder of United Cerebral Palsy of Will County, now known as United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois Prairieland.

Melvin Larson's life has been one of service to others. He has said, "To make life a little easier for someone, I hope I can make some contribution to that end." That is exactly what he did. He moved to Joliet, Illinois in 1954 where he became the head of Joliet Junior College's (JJC) Department of Physical Science. Upon retirement in 1975 from a successful career at JJC, he began a quest to help others.

Melvin Larson formed the first Will County chapter of the United Cerebral Palsy organization, with a vision to provide an education to children with disabilities. The organization began with just six families, but quickly grew to 35. It was not long before they outgrew their single room in the former Rehn School and began utilizing an entire grade school building. Thousands of children have benefited from the school throughout the years, and today more than 60 children are currently enrolled.

The dedication, service, and commitment exhibited by Melvin Larson throughout his life merit recognition and should be showcased as an example for selflessness unto others. That is why today we must honor Mel's vision to provide an education to children with disabilities.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching our community through community service.

In its fifty year history, the New Haven Alumnae Chapter has focused its attention on the changing and diverse needs of our community. Their mission has been to actively engage the community—particularly young people—in public service. Their goals are rooted in the understanding that our communities thrive when every member contribute to its success. Since its inception, this outstanding organization has awarded over \$250,000 in college scholarships; has developed and implemented multiple programs benefiting our youth including Delta Academy and the GEMS mentoring program; Project S.E.E. (Science and Everyday Experiences) workshops; as well as their signature "18 and Registered" voter registration campaign. With each of the programs offered, the New Haven Alumnae Chapter is opening the doors of opportunity to our community's young people.

The membership of the New Haven Alumnae Chapter includes some of our community's most prominent community advocates—many of whom dedicate both their professional and personal lives to public service. These women stand as role models for every member of our community, but particularly for our young people. They inspire us with their deep commitment to community and compassion for others. Our communities would not be the same without organizations such as the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Their efforts make it a better place to live, learn, and grow.

It is with great pleasure that I stand today to recognize the invaluable contributions the New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority have made to our community and to extend my heartfelt congratulations on their 50th Anniversary. They have made a real difference in our community and I wish them all the best for many more years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, on September 23, 2009, I was absent for rollcall vote 730 because of important committee business. If I had been present, I would have voted "nay."

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF BEARD'S 30 YEARS OF BRAVE AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITIES OF KANKAKEE AND BOURBONNAIS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, this month marks Chief Joe Beard's 30 years of brave and selfless service to citizens of Kankakee and Bourbonnais, Illinois. Today, I join these communities in thanking Joe for his dedication and outstanding commitment.

Joe did not grow up dreaming about being a police officer. But in the midst of studying to become a history teacher, Joe felt the calling to enter law enforcement. After receiving a law enforcement administration degree from Western Illinois University, he was hired by the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department, where he served for several years before briefly pursuing a real estate career. But soon Joe was back fighting to protect Illinoisans. And in 1979, at the age of 27, Joe was named Police Chief of Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Whether it was responding to a massive train wreck on a spring night ten years ago that left eleven dead, 122 injured, and a pile-up of twisted steel and train cars in its wake across the Illinois prairie, or responding to a routine traffic stop, Chief Beard has exhibited tremendous courage and selflessness. During Joe's tenure as Chief, the police department has doubled, expanding personnel to answer new challenges and better serve citizens. Chief Beard, along with the Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group (KAMEG), has been a leader in fighting drug crime.

Those like Chief Joe Beard keep our communities safe and provide families piece of mind to enjoy their lives. We all owe a profound debt to Joe Beard. On behalf of the entire 11th Congressional District, I thank Joe as he continues to serve the people of Bourbonnais.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR IRINA BOKOVA OF BULGARIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, Irina Bokova, Bulgaria's Ambassador to France, was elected the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). As the first female director of UNESCO, Ambassador Bokova brings her diplomatic and cultural knowledge as a former foreign minister of Bulgaria and her work in helping to bring Bulgaria into the European Union and the North American Treaty Organization (NATO).

As co-chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus, I want to congratulate the people of Bulgaria and Ambassador Bokova for her success. Having visited Bulgaria first as an International Republican Institute election observer in June 1990 and since, I have seen firsthand this young democracy emerge from